guards

Guards Are Made To Help You

A machine guard is not a robot in uniform. Nor is it an awkward device meant to slow you down and get in your way at work.

Machine guards are not meant to hinder you; they're meant to help you. They protect you from mishaps around machinery that could prevent you from working at all.

Basically, machine guards are meant to keep you from direct contact with moving equipment parts. Your hair, hands or clothing could be grabbed, for example, pulling you into the machinery. You shouldn't be wearing loose clothing, jewelry or unrestrained long hair around machinery anyway. You could be cut or punctured or crushed. There are also those machine guards that prevent you from being struck by flying debris, sprayed by toxic chemicals or liquids, or burned by sparks. In some situations, they guard against mechanical and electrical equipment failures.

Machine guards are designed to give as much protection as possible against human error. They even help someone who might be distracted, tired or reckless.

Both security and production are enhanced by machine guards. Employees work more confidently knowing the guards are offering them greater protection.

There are many different types of machine guards which protect you in different ways.

Barrier guards keep you at a safe distance from moving parts and materials. Sometimes they actually enclose machinery. A barrier can be as simple as a mesh or plastic covering, or railings, fences and barricades.

Some machine guards shut down operating machinery if you get too close to it. Movement detection devices might be pressure-sensitive mats, for example, or an electronic light beam.

Yet another kind of machine guard, called an interlock, shuts off the machine or prevents it from starting up if the guard is open or removed.

Other machine guards require you to keep both hands on the controls while operating machinery or it will stop. Yet other kinds will actually move your hands, arms or body out of the danger zone as the equipment begins each cycle.

It's up to you to make sure that machine guards are always in operation. Even just a temporary pause or removal can be the cause of major accidents.

At the end of a shift, all power to machinery must be shut off before machine guards are removed to make equipment adjustments and repairs. Make sure to put the guards back on before the equipment returns to operation.

Regularly inspect machine guards to keep them in good repair and keep them functioning properly.

Respect machine guards. They help to ensure your safety around moving machinery. Do not remove them or tamper with them. The injury victim could be you...or your co-worker.

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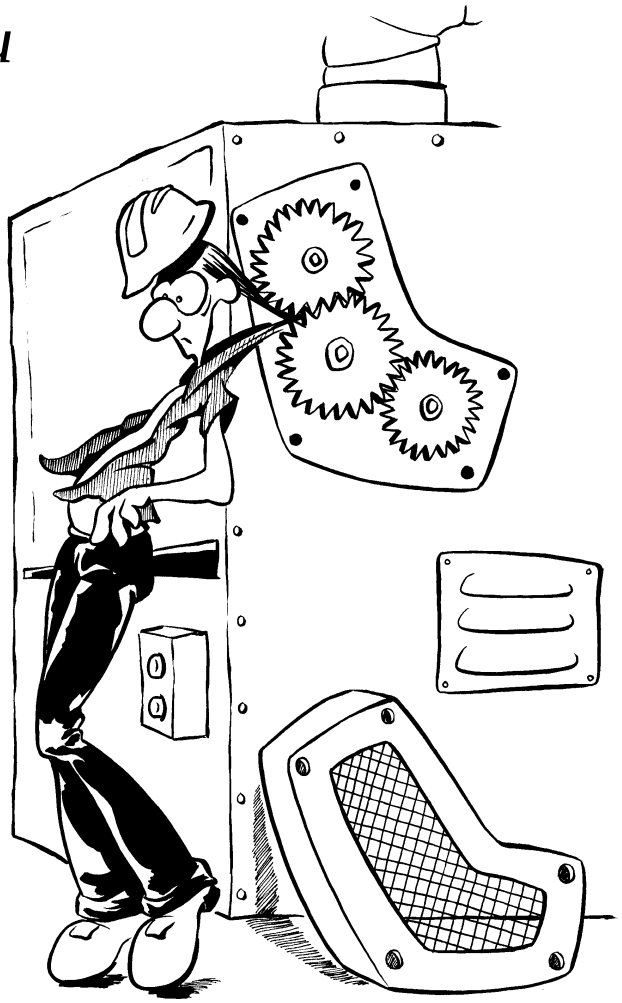

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